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## **Kuipers Applauds Supplemental Funding for Critical Grand Rapids Road Repairs**

*Senator to Attend 'Priorities First' Hearing Wednesday in Hudsonville*

**(LANSING)** – State Senator Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, today announced his support for “Priorities First,” legislation allowing for the restoration of critical road funding for 34 key road projects in Michigan, including the I-196/Chicago Drive interchange and US-31.

“Governor Granholm’s decision to cancel scheduled road projects across the state, including the I-196/Chicago Drive interchange and US-31, dealt a severe blow to residents who have anticipated those repairs for quite some time,” Kuipers said. “The “Priorities First” supplemental funding to restore transportation dollars is only beneficial for the transportation and safety concerns of West Michigan residents.”

As part of the Governor’s “Preserve First” initiative, the Michigan Department of Transportation suspended 34 capacity improvement or Build Michigan III road projects to achieve its goal of having 90 percent of roads and bridges in good condition by 2007. Those deferments have upset the public, who have been eagerly expecting their shoddy roads to be fully repaired.

“Priorities First” sets a sharp contrast between the Senate plan for the future of economic development in Michigan and the Governor’s short-sighted, unidentified plan.

The Senate Transportation Committee, of which Kuipers vice-chairs, will hold two public information hearings in order to receive public input on the Governor’s decision to cancel the pivotal road projects.

The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville City Hall Commission Chambers, located at 3275 Central Blvd in Hudsonville. The second meeting will be conducted Monday May 5, at 7:00 p.m. at the Oakland County Admission Auditorium in Pontiac.

Individuals interested in more information on the “Priorities First” hearings or the 34 deferment projects may contact Senator Kuipers’ office at (517) 373-6920.